

Grayling OSB • 4111 West Four Mile Road • Grayling, MI, 49738

February 13, 2013

Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes Committee  
Senate Bill 78  
Lansing, MI

Good Morning Mr. Chair and committee members and thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Todd Johnson and I am the forestry services manager for Weyerhaeuser's Grayling OSB Mill. Today I would like to provide you with a few comments on the Department of Natural Resources Living Legacy or Biodiversity Stewardship Area Program.

Our mill in Grayling has been in operation for 31 years this summer. We are the single largest consumer of forest products in Northern Lower Michigan and currently the fourth largest direct employer in Crawford County. Yet our real impact on the Michigan economy is in indirect employment. The amount of logging and trucking companies that we support is easily 3 times greater than the number of direct employees that we support.

The biggest reason why Weyerhaeuser chose Michigan as the place to start their OSB business was the amount of fiber available in this state. The forest service data then and today identifies Michigan as having one of the largest timber surpluses in the nation. In order for us to retain this standing it is crucial that we increase harvest levels so that increased mortality in our forests doesn't rob us of our growth.

I have included a letter that George Weyerhaeuser was sent over 30 years ago by then Chief Webster when we were deciding where we should start our OSB business. The sense of partnership with industry and dedication to sound forest management comes out often and strong. Also interesting to hear how important it was then to our state to diversify our economy and how the forests products industry was recognized as a good vehicle then and it still is today.

Programs like the Living Legacy or Biodiversity Stewardship Areas are not in the best interest of our state. Setting aside more acres from effective forest management is not needed in the state of Michigan. We already have over 1 million acres in set a sides to date in our great state. This will not lead to healthier

forests, it's our belief that it will result in increasing mortality overall and be a detriment to the economy. That's why we support Senate Bill 78 which will protect our state from initiatives like the Living Legacy program and stop the implementation of Biological Stewardship Areas on any productive state forest lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning.

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

HOWARD A. TANNER, Director

February 19, 1980

*Rosen*

Mr. George Weyerhaeuser  
President  
Weyerhaeuser Company  
Tacoma, Washington 98401

Dear Mr. Weyerhaeuser:

We have greatly enjoyed recent discussion with your people including the visit by Bob Rankle, John Austin, Thor Hansen, and others last week. We are most hopeful that the new Weyerhaeuser flakeboard plant will be located in Michigan.

A substantial part of the timber requirements for the plant can be supplied from our state forests in the vicinity. Timber growth and harvest is one of the major purposes of management for our state forest system. Indeed that purpose has been strengthened within the past year by a new policy statement adopted by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission without dissenting vote. That policy statement directs us to identify primary purposes of management by geographic areas in order to better separate conflicting uses. And within that approach, it directs us to strengthen timber growth and harvest. These directives provide the basis for a significant and sustained strengthening of overall forest resource management and an important basis for strengthening and intensifying timber management. We also note that other purposes of management that are important in the northern lower peninsula are distinctly complementary with timber management. Wildlife is a case particularly in point, and for that reason our Wildlife Division is most supportive of your locating in Michigan.

Turning to specifics, we are making progress in strengthening state forest timber sales. A budget request for additional personnel to reach our market determined allowable cut has already been funded in part. The rest of this request is included in Governor Milliken's budget request to the Legislature for the fiscal year that begins October 1, 1980. These funds are being requested and appropriated in a form that earmarks them for timber sales. A large majority of the new personnel being funded will be assigned in the northern lower peninsula in recognition of major opportunities there that require strengthened staffing. As markets improve in future years, we will request further funding to move closer to our growth determined allowable cut.



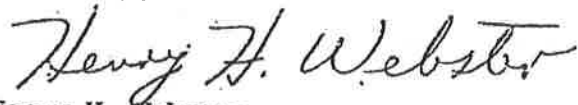
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We are also attempting to strengthen programs of information and assistance for non-industrial private forest owners. We have a history of good working relationships among the agencies and organizations involved in such programs. We are completing a new and comprehensive agreement to further strengthen these relationships into an improved and unified functional program. Landowner assistance efforts by Weyerhaeuser people would be a most complementary and valuable part of such a program. These unified efforts would be an important indirect support for your procurement program, as well as those of other forest products firms.

→ There is an evident strengthening of public interest in effective forest resource management and development in Michigan. It goes beyond these program specifics, but ultimately supports them. This public interest would also strongly support your new plant and associated activities. This strengthening public interest grows out of a simple but most important factor. That factor is widening recognition that this part of the country urgently needs economic diversification, that efforts in many economic sectors will be needed to achieve meaningful diversification, and that forest resources can make an important contribution as part of this effort.

Again, we are most hopeful that the new Weyerhaeuser flakeboard plant will be located in Michigan. We have enjoyed recent discussions. And we look forward to working with your people in a new and mutually beneficial relationship once the plant has been located. In a more personal vein, I look forward to renewing and strengthening acquaintances with Charlie Bingham, George Staebler, Bill Lawrence, and others.

Sincerely,



Henry H. Webster  
Chief

FOREST MANAGEMENT DIVISION

HHW:djt

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